

## Message Text

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PAGE 01   SOFIA 00509 111621Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----120530Z 126830 /21

R 111319Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2533

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0509

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, TPHY, BU  
SUBJECT: MARINOV CASE

REF: STATE 052827

1. GRATEFUL FOR DEPT'S PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH SHOWS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MARINOV WITHOUT EITHER GETTING INTO MORE DETAIL THAN IS DESIRABLE OR MAKING A GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED, EITHER NOW OR LATER. THIS MESSAGE FIRST POINTS OUT VULNERABILITIES OF THE PROPOSED GUIDANCE AND THEN MAKES SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO OVERCOME THEM.

2. VULNERABILITIES:

A. WE HAVE NO FIRM BASIS TO DESCRIBE MARINOV AS A "DISSIDENT" EXCEPT HIS OWN DESCRIPTION OF HIS DIFFICULTIES, WHICH COULD BE AS MUCH DUE TO HIS BEING DERANGED AS THEY COULD BE DUE TO HIS CONVICTIONS. (WE NOTE THAT THE WORD DISSIDENT APPEARS ONLY IN THE QUESTION, NOT IN THE ANSWER.)

B. WE SHOULD NOT SAY THAT MARINOV CAME TO THE EMBASSY SEEKING ASYLUM. THIS IS WHAT SNOW RECALLS, BUT MARINOV HIMSELF DOES NOT CLAIM IT. HE CLAIMS, IN WRITTEN  
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STATEMENT TRANSMITTED TO DEPT FEB 11, THAT HE CAME TO ASK US TO TRANSMIT A PROTEST AND FOR OTHER REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH HIS ALLEGED INCARCERATION IN INSANE ASYLUM AND HIS SCIENTIFIC WORK.

C. WE CANNOT SAY THAT OUR INVESTIGATION HAS "DETERMINED" THAT BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WERE NEITHER INFORMED

OF MARINOV'S PRESENCE NOR REQUESTED TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY BY ANY OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY. AFTER ALL, TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE SUBMITTED WRITTEN STATEMENTS ASSERTING THE OPPOSITE (SEE SOFIA 0272 AND MEMOS DATED 1/31 AND TRANSMITTED 2/11). OF COURSE, THEY COULD BE WRONG IN WHOLE OR IN PART BUT OUR INVESTIGATION HAS NOT DETERMINED THAT. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT NONE OF THE OFFICERS OF THIS EMBASSY WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MAKING DECISION TO CALL BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN ABLE (OR WILLING) TO RECALL HIS OR HER ROLE IN IT. THEREFORE THE BEST WE CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY IS THAT THE MATTER IS MOOT. (I CONFESS TO SOME EMBARRASSMENT THAT I MYSELF, ALTHOUGH I HAD JUST TAKEN CHARGE OF THE EMBASSY WHEN THE ALLEGED INCIDENT OCCURRED, CANNOT RECALL HAVING HEARD ONE WORD ABOUT IT, POSSIBLY BECAUSE I WAS EITHER OUT ALL DAY MAKING CALLS OR PRESENTING CREDENTIALS THAT DAY.)

D. WHILE MARINOV CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WE DO NOT KNOW THIS FOR A FACT. HOWEVER, IF HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, WHICH IS UNDER THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, IT WOULD BE ONLY A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION TO SAY HE WAS A "MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY -- BUT A EXAGGERATION NEVERTHELESS.

### 3. SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

A. REPHRASE FIRST ANSWER TO READ QTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE VIEWS DR. MARINOV'S CHARGES AS A SERIOUS MATTER. WHILE OUR EMBASSIES DO NOT KEEP RECORDS OF EVERY VISITOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR EXTENSIVE AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF HIS CHARGES HAS SHOWN THAT DR. MARINOV VISITED OUR EMBASSY IN SOFIA, BULGARIA SEVERAL TIMES AND THAT ON ONE OCCASION HE SAID HE HAD JUST ESCAPED FROM AN INSANE ASYLUM. WE HAVE DIFFERING ACCOUNTS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MR. MARINOV'S DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY ON THAT OCCASION, WHICH WE OBTAINED FROM AMERICANS AND BULGARIANS WHO WERE AT THE EMBASSY AT THE TIME. AFTER SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS ON OUR PART AND INTERVIEWS WITH NUMEROUS PERSONS WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO RECONSTRUCT A CLEAR ACCOUNT OF WHAT ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE. THE EVENT IN QUESTION TOOK PLACE NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO. UNQTE

B. DO NOT DESCRIBE HIM AS A DISSIDENT IN ANY ANSWERS. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT ALSO WITH THE ANSWER IN REFTTEL THAT SAYS "WE ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMENT KNOWLEDGEABLY ABOUT DR. MARINOV'S POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT, OR THE GROUNDS FOR SUCH IMPRISONMENT."

C. DO NOT DESCRIBE HIM AS FORMER "MEMBER" OF THE  
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UNLESS THIS CAN BE VERIFIED  
FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN MARINOV HIMSELF.  
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## Message Attributes

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